

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 16, 2005, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12, 14-23, 26, and 28.

This Amendment cancels claims 5, 13, 23, 24, 25, and 28. This Amendment also amends claim 1 to correct a minor typographical error and amends claim 27 to include the limitations of allowable claim 28. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12, 14-22, 26, and 27 are now pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 13 and 23.

Claims 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,621 (Johnson). Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,199,504 (Freeman). Those rejections are now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 5, 13, 24, and 25.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,462,145 (Schulze). The limitations of allowable claim 28 have been incorporated into independent claim 27, and claim 28 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

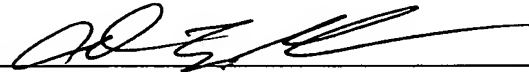
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 2, 2005

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5349
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Andrew E. Rawlins
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,702